

St. John Emlenton 11:00 12/8/68

*processional Hymn
*Choral Call to Worship
*Confession of Sin
Assurance of Pardon
Responsive Reading Page 567 Sel. 3
Hymn
Scripture Reading John 1:1-15, 3: 16-21
*Gloria Patri
*Apostles Creed
*Pastoral Prayer
Anthem
Announcements

Offering, Prayer

*Hymn 117
Prayer

Prayer & Lord's Prayer

*Hymn 108

*Benediction

*Three fold Amen

Salem Lamartine 9:30 12/8/68

Processional Hymn 100
*Choral Call to Worship (or page 107)
*Confession of Sin
Assurance of Pardon
Scripture John 1:1-15, 3:16-21
*Gloria Patri
*Apostles Creed
*Pastoral Prayer
Anthem
Announcements
CHILDREN BOX 1 MILE SW.
YOUTH FIELD.
CONF. NEW

Offering, Response, Prayer

Hymn 112

Sermon

Prayer & Lord's Prayer

*Hymn 97

*Benediction

*Threefold Amen

Call to worship: It is full time now for you to wake from sleep. The night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of life.

Call to Confession: Seek ye the Lord while he may be found; call ye upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God for he will abundantly pardon. Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon: "They shall see the glory of the Lord, the excellency of our God. Strengthen the weak hands and confirm the feeble knees. Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not; Behold your God will come with vengeance even God with a recompense; He will come and save you." Amen.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Pittsburgh, Pa.
125th Anniversary Year

John R. Bacher, Pastor
Esther W. Herwig, Organist and Director
George Heiser, Acolyte

2nd Sunday in Advent December 5, 1971

- ORGAN PRELUDES
a) "Morning Song" by Demorest
b) "Melody of Peace" by McDowell
ADVENT SENTENCE
CHURCH BELLS
MEDITATION - "Holy, Holy, Holy" by Dykes
* SOLEMN ANNOUNCEMENT
* INTROIT for the 2nd Sunday in Advent
M. Behold, thy salvation cometh.
C. The Lord shall cause his glorious
voice to be heard, and ye shall have
gladness of heart.
* GLORIA PATRI
* COLLECT for the 2nd Sunday in Advent
HYMN #76 - "Hark, the Glad Sound"
SCRIPTURE LESSONS
Epistle - Romans 15:4-13
Gospel - Luke 21:25-36
* DOXOLOGY
* APOSTLES' CREED
ANTHEM - "Thy Word Is Like a Garden, Lord"
SILENT PRAYER and PASTORAL PRAYER
PRAYER RESPONSE
OFFERING
OFFERTORY - "Intermezzo" by Faulkes
OFFERING PRAYER
ANNOUNCEMENTS
* HYMN #166 - "I Need Thee Every Hour" (1-3)
SERMON - "If Jesus Is God"
Text - Matthew 2:11b
SERMON PRAYER and LORD'S PRAYER
* HYMN #78 - "Arise, the Kingdom Is at Hand"
* BLESSING and THREEFOLD AMEN

POSTLUDE - "Marche Romaine" by Gounod
(* - congregation standing)

Our altar flowers are placed in memory of
Mr. Thomas McNeerney by his son, Tom.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 5th

11:45 A.M. Election of officers to the
Church Council and of representatives to
the Federated Board of the United North
Side Ministry. Those completing terms
in office are Trustee Allen Stepnick,
Elders William Baierl and John Krapp,
Deacons Fred Genter and Estella Haase,
and Representatives Estella Haase, Alice
Mudge, and Betty Reynolds.

After church this morning we will have
our first practice for the Christmas
play, "Which of the Nine" - to be presented
at 9:30 A.M. on Sunday December 19th.

TUESDAY DECEMBER 7th

3:30 P.M. Community children's group.
7:30 P.M. Joint Committee meeting at
St. Peter's Church.

THURSDAY DECEMBER 9th

7:30 P.M. Dartball at 8th United Presby-
terian Church, 2403 Perrysville Ave.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 11th

10:00 A.M. Confirmation Class.

HOSPITAL PATIENTS:

Mrs. Elizabeth Belohlavek at Allegheny
Hospital, room 1421.

Please remember to pick up your church
Christmas cards today: \$2.00 for 20 cards
and 21 envelopes.

TRINITY CHARGE--THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 Ralph O. Link, Pastor
 Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 9:00 A.M.
 Christ Church, Duncannon 10:30 A.M.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP December 5, 1971

The Organ Prelude
 *The Hymn of Praise 100
 *The Call to Worship
 *The Prayer of Confession (Unison)
 O Gracious God, who hast given us thy
 Creation and a new Covenant, who callest us
 by the Word of Prophet and Apostle. We
 confess that we have sinned in thy sight.
 We have interrupted thy counsels, frustrated
 thy purposes, and disobeyed thy commandments.
 Then in our self esteem, we have challenged
 thy wisdom, acted in haste, violated the
 sanctity of ourselves and others, by our
 thoughts and words, and have regarded our
 ways higher than thy ways. In thy mercy O
 God, hear our prayers and forgive us. Amen.
 *The Kyrie
 *The Assurance of Pardon
 The Scripture----Genesis 1:1&2
 John 1:1-14
 *The Gloria Patri
 The Anthem (Trinity)
 The Pastoral Prayer
 The Choral Response (Trinity)
 The Announcements
 The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings
 *The Doxology
 *The Offering Prayer and Lord's Prayer
 The Hymn of Meditation 107
 The Lighting of the Advent Wreath
 The Sermon---"Let There Be Light"
 The Sermon Prayer
 *The Hymn of Response 108

*The Benediction
 *The Threefold Amen
 *The Postlude

*Congregation Stands

TRINITY CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Covered dish dinner tonight at 5:30 P.M.
 Let us all come and join in the fellowship.

JOINT TABLE SERVICE

CHRIST CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

The regular monthly consistory meeting
 will be held Monday Dec. 6th at 7:30 P.M.

Sunday afternoon Dec. 12th at 2:00 P.M.
 we will meet to decorate the tree and hang
 the greens in the church.

WELCOME VISITORS

Let There Be Light

O LITTLE TOWN OF
BETHLEHEM.

Text: John 1; 4 & 5

"All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light #2
of men, a light that shines in darkness, a light that darkness could
not overpower."

JOHN

According to a legend, one Christmas Eve, Martin Luther
was walking home through ^{FIELDS WHITE WITH SNOW} ~~snow-covered fields~~. He glanced at the stars
shining brightly overhead and was impressed how they shown and sparkled
through the snow covered branches of ^F a fir tree. He hurried home to tell
his family of this beauty and along the way he cut a small fir tree to
take with him. When he reached home he took the tree and placed in on
the floor of the living room, and ^{PUT} ~~placed~~ lighted candles on it's branches
to illustrate what he was trying to tell them. A candle lit Christmas
tree became a family ritual in the Luther home from then on. This is
supposedly how the custom of decorating and lighting fir trees at
Christmastime came about.

Light and lighting has played an important role in the
world. In the ancient world into which Jesus was born, light was very
important. The pagan religions had very definite beliefs about light
and also about darkness. The mystery religions which came mostly from
Persia, as well as the religion of the Gnostics dealt with light and
darkness. The word Gnosis from which the term Gnostic and the word we
know of today as agnostic, meant knowledge. The Gnostics were people
who had the knowledge and ^{ESPECIALLY RELIGION.} ~~were those who knew~~ the answers to things. A
To them light was the realm of the good gods, and darkness was the realm
of the evil gods. There was to them a struggle between good and evil.
So when John speaks of the word, (meaning Jesus), being the light in
his Gospel he is probably trying to tell the Gnostics and the followers
of the mystery cults that here was the one to overcome the darkness.
In fact he states ~~that~~, "That life was the light of men, a light that

shines in the darkness, a light that darkness could not overpower." So light is not an unfamiliar word in the New Testament. In the Gospel of Matthew we read that the birth of Jesus was heralded by a bright star. Light in other words. This light was also a sign. When Isaiah spoke of the birth of Emmanuel, he said the Lord would give a sign. The sign was not only the birth of the baby but the sign of the star as well.

When the angel of the Lord appeared to the shepherds, "The glory of the Lord shone round about them," light again. When Jesus was transfigured before his disciples on the mountain, "His clothes were as white as snow and his face shown with a light." At the tomb the angel appeared in bright and dazzling white. Each of these instances concerns the mention of light. In other words this light bit was something these people could understand. This light was the light of the world, and this too is why we decorate with lights on trees and in windows. This is why we light candles in church. To signify that we accept and know of the Light of the World.

The light that Jesus brought at his birth, and the light that he continues to bring into the lives of men and women throughout the world, is a light that make order out of chaos. In the beginning of the world at its creation, God said, "Let there be light." The light that he gave brought order out of chaos. Then he sent his son into the world and again he ~~must have~~ said, "Let there be light." And ~~again~~ there was light and this light again brought ~~order to chaos~~ order out of chaos. If we are left to our own devices, we are at the mercy of our passions, of our fears, of our hungers, of our worries and all ~~of~~ the other ills of mankind. But with Jesus shining in our lives we can then see the light. We can know that no matter what our problem, we can overcome it with our Saviour, the light of the world.

The light which Jesus brings is a guiding light. In the 12th chapter of John we read that if a man walks in darkness, he does not possess the light. And when he receives the light and accepts it then he

walks in darkness no more. Time and again we read in the gospel accounts of people who came to Jesus and asked, "What must I do?" But when Jesus comes into the heart and the life of a person, the uncertainty is gone, the doubts are gone. Where once there was darkness there is now light, and the path is made clear. Without Jesus in our lives we are like the man who was in the railway station waiting between trains. While he waited, he went to a phone booth to make a call. Not knowing the number he tried to find it in the book in the booth. But he had no light and he was not too familiar with phone booths. So after frantically trying to look up the number in the dark booth with no success, he hailed a passing porter and asked him for help. The porter told him that if he would close the door, the light would come on. So it is with us, if we close our hearts to the outside world around us ~~and~~ the light comes into our lives and we find that which our souls long for and seek, "The light of the world."

When we compare light and darkness we see that most ^{OF THAT WHICH} ~~that~~ is good is done in the light. The daylight hours are used to carry on most of the activities of life. But if we look at the hours of darkness, we see that most that is evil is carried on then. Most of the crimes committed are committed at night. This means the robberies and muggings and breaking and entering is done under the protective hand of darkness. But John tells us that Jesus shines through this darkness also and the darkness has not been able to overcome him.

Phillips Brooks from early childhood loved and memorized hymns. By the time he had reached college age he could repeat more than 200 of them. He never forgot them and he often used them in his sermons. While he was the rector of the Holy Trinity Church in Philadelphia, his parishioners sent him abroad for a year.. In december his travels took him to the Holy Land, There he traced the ~~steps~~ of his Saviour and on Christmas Eve he went to the little town of Bethlehem. He stood in the old church close to the spot where it is supposed that Jesus was born

and he listened as people worshipping in this church sang hymns to God. Two years later he remembered that night and was so filled with emotion that he sat down and wrote, "O little town of Bethlehem how still we see thee lie, above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark street shineth the everlasting light. The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight. It had only taken him a few minutes to write the entire hymn.

But what he mentions is the everlasting light shining in the dark street of Bethlehem. Other writers have written, O star of wonder star of night, star with royal beauty bright, Westward leading still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light." As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold; as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward beaming bright." These are only a few examples of light and stars and their mention in hymns and poems. Many many others could be cited as examples of this thinking. But by their very wording we know something of this light. It was a star, it was a baby, it was a man. It was the Son of God. Each of them played a very important part in the life of Jesus.

As we wend our way once again to that little town of Bethlehem, let us not just look for the babe, nor should we become distracted by the sights and the sounds. The star and its light can throw us off the track and away from ^{our} ~~the~~ main purpose. We are making this journey again, not to look at the light, but to see the source of it. The light of the world is what we seek. This is what men have been searching for for years. Some have found it and some are still looking for it. Men came many years ago and asked the question, "Where is he that is born king of the Jews?" Men are asking this same question today. But they have changed it and are asking only, "Where is our King?" Men are seeking and searching for a king to rally behind and to follow. They are not limiting it to a king of just the Jews, but a king of all. This king is still available today as he was at his birth. Not a helpless baby,

nor a warrior king. But as the light of the world. The king who was hailed by light and in whom was light and who was the light, shining in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

A man was looking for something under the one street light on a city block. He explained to a passerby that he had lost his keys. On he looked but only under the light. When the passerby asked why he did not venture further than the small area he was covering he replied, "This is the only place where the light is." Jesus the light cannot be limited to one place or one spot. We cannot say he is only in Bethlehem or another geographical spot. He is everywhere, shining on into the darkness seeking men and women each and every day. May we in this advent season meet not only the babe and the star, but may we also have the light of the world in our lives.